

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 DHA-02 SAM-01 ORM-02

/079 W

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O 161035Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8166

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 514

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. A VERY NOISY NIGHT, WITH WHAT SOUNDED LIKE ARTILLERY SHELLS KEEPING MANY PEOPLE AWAKE. THE HEAVY FIRING WAS MAINLY NEAR DAMOUR, SOUTH OF THE CITY, WHERE PALESTINIANS ARE TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH IN ORDER TO RESUPPLY THEIR PEOPLE IN BEIRUT.

2. SINGLE SNIPER IN HOTEL DISTRICT CONTINUES TO GET ON OUR NERVES IN THE EMBASSY. PARTICULARLY AS HE DRAWS RETURN FIRE FROM ARMY CONTINGENT PROTECTING EMBASSY. BULLET SMASHED INTO LOCAL EMPLOYEE'S BUDGET AND FISCAL OFFICE THIS MORNING. NO CASUALTY, BUT WE ARE RELOCATING PERSONNEL FROM THAT WHOLE WING.

3. THERE ARE A VARIETY OF REPORTS OF ATTACKS AND HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND SEVERAL POINTS IN CITY LAST NIGHT, INCLUDING TEL ZAATAR REFUGEE CAMP, WHICH PHALANGISTS CONTINUE TO SURROUND AND THREATEN. MOST FIGHTING ON
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THE LEFT SEEMS TO BE BY PALESTINIANS SUPPORTING LOCAL

MOSLEM FORCES. ARMY UNITS FREELY FIRING BACK WHENEVER THEY FEEL THREATENED. WE HAVE REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN SEVERAL OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS THE WELL KNOWN AREAS.

3. ON POLITICAL FRONT GENERAL CHEHABI IS DUE TO VISIT FRANGIE TODAY. PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT IS SAID TO BE TO HELP IN ESTABLISHING CEASEFIRE. THIS SEEMS CONNECTED WITH NEW REPORTS THIS MORNING THAT FRANGIE TRIP TO DAMASCUS MIGHT BE PUT OFF UNTIL A CEASEFIRE IS ESTABLISHED, SINCE IT WOULD NOT BE VERY PRODUCTIVE OTHERWISE. IN VIEW OF STRONG FIGHTING SPIRIT EXHIBITED BY PHALANGIST-CHAMOUNISTS ON RIGHT AND PALESTINIAN-MOSLEMS ON LEFT, WE CANNOT TELL IF THIS REPRESENTS A STALL OR GENUINELY CONSTRUCTIVE PREPARATION FOR BETTER RESULTS FROM THE VISIT.
LAMBRAKIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, PROGRESS REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00514
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760016-1131
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760151/aaaabtha.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 0900 LEBANON REPORT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006